

# **“The ONLY Hope for America”**

## **Psalm 33**

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**Key Words:** Nation, repent, repentance.

Is there any hope for America? That is the big question on most people’s minds. Your political affiliation will likely determine the amount of hope you have about the future. If you are Marxist/Socialist, you are probably optimistic about the future. If you want freedom, free markets and freedom of speech, not so much!

The goal of our message today isn’t to discuss what I think will happen or looking at some obscure verses and trying to read America into some Bible prophecy. My goal is to cause us to look *inward* and *upward*.

Before I get into it, let me make clear that I want the Donald to win again as much as anyone. I will vote for my biblical values and believe that ALL Christians should. I believe we will one day give an account to God for how we stood for righteousness and did we as Christians use the freedom God gave us to affect the country in the ballot box.

Let me also make it clear that I do not believe that the Donald is the answer to America’s problems.

What if he wins? What will we do?

Let’s say gas and food prices go down, what will we do with it? Will we then invest more time with the Lord? Will we invest more time serving at church? Will we invest time reaching the lost?

Or will we use the time to make our houses bigger, our cars newer, our clothes nicer?

*Ronald Reagan said.*

*“If we ever forget that we are One Nation Under God, then we will be a nation gone under.”*

Leonard Ravenhill, in his book “Why Revival Tarries” said.

“Sodom, which had no Bible, no preachers, no tracts, no prayer meetings, no churches, perished. How then will America and England be spared from the wrath of the Almighty, think you? We have millions of Bibles, scores of thousands of churches, endless preachers—and yet what sin!”

*What or who are WE putting OUR hope in?*

This morning, we will look at Psalm 33 to guide us to an answer.

Background on Psalm 33

*One commentator writes.*

*“The structure reveals a cyclical pattern by which each generation is encouraged to praise the Lord for past and present evidences of his love. Consequently, each generation is to expect the Lord to give further reason for praise as the eyes of faith are fixed on him and on a renewal of his love.*

*A. Song of Praise (vv. 1–3)*

*B. Perfections of Yahweh (vv. 4–5)*

*C. Yahweh Is the Creator-Ruler (vv. 6–11)*

*D. Yahweh Is the Ruler Over Mankind (vv. 12–17)*

*E. Yahweh’s Love for His People (vv. 18–19)*

*F. Hope in Yahweh’s Love (vv. 20–22)*

*The above structure clarifies the movement of the Psalm from praise to hope, which when fulfilled leads into a new chorus of similar praise.”*

VanGemeren, W. A. (1991). Psalms. In F. E. Gaebelin (Ed.), *The Expositor’s Bible Commentary: Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs* (Vol. 5, p. 276). Zondervan Publishing House.

## **1. We MUST worship the Lord!**

**Psalm 33:1-7** <sup>1</sup> Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous! For praise from the upright is beautiful. <sup>2</sup> Praise the LORD with the harp; make melody to Him with an instrument of ten strings. <sup>3</sup> Sing to Him a new song; play skillfully with a shout of joy. <sup>4</sup> For the word of the LORD is right, and all His work is done in truth. <sup>5</sup> He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the goodness of the LORD. <sup>6</sup> By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and all the host of them by the breath

of His mouth. <sup>7</sup> He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap; He lays up the deep in storehouses.”

- **Worship MUST be a priority!**
- Is worship the buffer to come in late and leave early?
  - Is it just music?
  - Do we worship when we like the song and not when we don't?
- We MUST praise him because His word is right, and all His work is done in truth!
  - **1 Chronicles 16:23-36** <sup>23</sup> Sing to the LORD, all the earth; proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day. <sup>24</sup> Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples. <sup>25</sup> For the LORD *is* great and greatly to be praised; He *is* also to be feared above all gods. <sup>26</sup> For all the gods of the peoples *are* idols, but the LORD made the heavens. <sup>27</sup> Honor and majesty *are* before Him; strength and gladness are in His place. <sup>28</sup> Give to the LORD, O families of the peoples, give to the LORD glory and strength. <sup>29</sup> Give to the LORD the glory *due* His name; bring an offering, and come before Him. Oh, worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness! <sup>30</sup> Tremble before Him, all the earth. The world also is firmly established, it shall not be moved. <sup>31</sup> Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; and let them say among the nations, “The LORD reigns.” <sup>32</sup> Let the sea roar, and all its fullness; let the field rejoice, and all that *is* in it. <sup>33</sup> Then the trees of the woods shall rejoice before the LORD, for He is coming to judge the earth. <sup>34</sup> Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for *He is* good! For His mercy *endures* forever. <sup>35</sup> And say, “Save us, O God of our salvation; gather us together, and deliver us from the Gentiles, to give thanks to Your holy name, to triumph in Your praise.” <sup>36</sup> Blessed *be* the LORD God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting! And all the people said, “Amen!” and praised the LORD.”

## 2. We MUST fear the Lord!

**Psalm 33:8-9** <sup>8</sup> Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. <sup>9</sup> For He spoke, and it was *done*; He commanded, and it stood fast.”

- **Fear** – Basically, this verb connotes the psychological reaction of “fear.”... This is not simple fear, but reverence, whereby an individual recognizes the power and position of the individual revered and renders him proper respect. <sup>1</sup> Vine, W. E., Unger, M. F., & White, W., Jr. (1996). In *Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words* (Vol. 1, p. 79). T. Nelson.
  - **Proverbs 1:7** “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge...”
  - The proof that the fear of the Lord is something rejected today
    - **Proverbs 1:29-31** <sup>29</sup> Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the LORD, <sup>30</sup> They would have none of **my** counsel *and* despised **my** every rebuke. <sup>31</sup> Therefore they shall eat

the fruit of their own way, and be filled to the full with their own fancies.”

- The New Testament parallel to this is **Romans 1:18-32**
  - The result of rejecting God is the downward spiral of sin in a culture to the point where they not only sin openly but approve of those who practice them.
    - Do we see in our culture an open approval of sin?
      - Why?
- **Stand in Awe** – This verb means “to dwell in a land as a client, sojourner.”<sup>1</sup> Vine, W. E., Unger, M. F., & White, W., Jr. (1996). In *Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words* (Vol. 1, p. 236). T. Nelson.
  - The first place this word was used
    - **Genesis 12:10** “Now there was a famine in the land, and Abram went down to Egypt to dwell there, for the famine was severe in the land.”
  - There is a double meaning when we combine these words.
    - *It is where we dwell and how we dwell.*
      - We live on earth as sojourners.
      - This place is NOT our home!
        - **Hebrews 11:13-16** “<sup>13</sup> These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced *them* and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. <sup>14</sup> For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. <sup>15</sup> And truly if they had called to mind that *country* from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. <sup>16</sup> But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly *country*. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.”
    - **Hebrews 13:14** “For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come.”
      - Is this our attitude? Or have we made this earth our home?
        - When Pilate questioned Jesus about whether He was a king of this world answered with this.
          - **John 18:36** “My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here.”

- Earlier He prayed.
  - **John 17:15-17** “<sup>15</sup> I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup> They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. <sup>17</sup> Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.”

### **3. We MUST remember, His will above all!**

**Psalm 33:10-11** “<sup>10</sup> The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; He makes the plans of the peoples of no effect. <sup>11</sup> The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the plans of His heart to all generations.”

- Do not be troubled by all that is happening in the world!
  - **John 14:27** “Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. **Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.**”
- WHY don't we need to fear?
- Because HE brings and will bring the counsel of the nations to nothing!
  - *Do you think God Almighty worries about what the World Economic Forum is planning?*
  - *Do you think He is moved by world governments and their evil plans?*
    - **Psalm 2:1-5** “<sup>1</sup> Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing? <sup>2</sup> The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, <sup>3</sup> “Let us break Their bonds in pieces and cast away Their cords from us.” <sup>4</sup> He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; the Lord shall hold them in derision. <sup>5</sup> Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, and distress them in His deep displeasure...”
    - **Psalm 22:28** “For the kingdom is the LORD's, and He rules over the nations.”
  - *Do you think He's worried about who will win the election?*
    - **Daniel 2:21** “And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings...”

### **4. We MUST turn to the Lord!**

**Psalm 33:12-15** “<sup>12</sup> Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people He has chosen as His own inheritance. <sup>13</sup> The LORD looks from heaven; He sees all the sons of men. <sup>14</sup> From the place of His dwelling He looks on all the inhabitants of the earth; <sup>15</sup> He fashions their hearts individually; He considers all their works.”

- Is God the Lord over America?

- You may say no because the Dems are in charge.
- Is He the God of the Republican party?
- He was at one time over our nation, but we kicked Him out.
  - Where was the light?
  - Where was the salt?
- The church must take responsibility for the state of the nation.
  - Where was the church when Roe v Wade was passed?
  - Where was the church when prayer was removed from schools?
  - Where was the church when the Ten Commandments were removed from our halls of power?
    - I am not talking about some churches, but THE church!
      - The bride of Christ!
      - THE salt and light of the earth?
  - Where was THE church?
    - Where is THE church today?

*Alexis De Tocqueville is credited to have said.*

*"I sought for the greatness and genius of America in her commodious harbors and her ample rivers - and it was not there ... in her fertile fields and boundless forests and it was not there... in her rich mines and her vast world commerce - and it was not there ... in her democratic Congress and her matchless Constitution - and it was not there. Not until I went into the churches of America and heard her pulpits aflame with righteousness did I understand the secret of her genius and power. America is great because she is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, she will cease to be great."*

***Are America's pulpits aflame with righteousness?***

**There seems to be a major drought!**

And do "believers" demand more of their pastors? Or have they heaped up for themselves ear ticklers?

**Just remember!**

- *He considers all our works!*
  - **2 Chronicles 16:9** "For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of *those* whose heart *is* loyal to Him."
  - **Job 34:21** "For His eyes *are* on the ways of man, and He sees all his steps."

## 5. We MUST not rely on man!

**Psalm 33:16-17** <sup>16</sup> No king *is* saved by the multitude of an army; a mighty man is not delivered by great strength. <sup>17</sup> A horse *is* a vain hope for safety; neither shall it deliver *any* by its great strength.”

- *We must not put our trust in man, any man, to save us!*
  - **Psalm 44:6-7** <sup>6</sup> For I will not trust in my bow, nor shall my sword save me. <sup>7</sup> But You have saved us from our enemies, and have put to shame those who hated us.”
  - **Proverbs 21:31** “The horse *is* prepared for the day of battle, but deliverance *is* of the LORD.”

## 6. We MUST trust in Him!

**Psalm 33:18-21** <sup>18</sup> Behold, the eye of the LORD *is* on those who fear Him, on those who hope in His mercy, <sup>19</sup> To deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine. <sup>20</sup> Our soul waits for the LORD; He *is* our help and our shield. <sup>21</sup> For our heart shall rejoice in Him, because we have trusted in His holy name.”

At this present hour, we can ONLY hope in His mercy!

At this present hour, we can ONLY wait for the Lord!

At this present hour, we can ONLY trust in His holy name!

- **2 Chronicles 26:3-5** <sup>3</sup> Uzziah *was* sixteen years old when he became king, and he reigned fifty-two years in Jerusalem... <sup>4</sup> And he did *what was* right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father Amaziah had done. <sup>5</sup> He sought God in the days of Zechariah, who had understanding in the visions of God; and as long as he sought the LORD, God made him prosper.”
- **2 Chronicles 26:16-23** <sup>16</sup> But when he was strong his heart was lifted up, to *his* destruction, for he transgressed against the LORD his God by entering the temple of the LORD to burn incense on the altar of incense. <sup>17</sup> So Azariah the priest went in after him, and with him were eighty priests of the LORD—valiant men. <sup>18</sup> And they withstood King Uzziah, and said to him, “*It is* not for you, Uzziah, to burn incense to the LORD, but for the priests, the sons of Aaron, who are consecrated to burn incense. Get out of the sanctuary, for you have trespassed! You *shall have* no honor from the LORD God.” <sup>19</sup> Then Uzziah became furious; and he *had* a censer in his hand to burn incense. And while he was angry with the priests, leprosy broke out on his forehead, before the priests in the house of the LORD, beside the incense altar. <sup>20</sup> And Azariah the chief priest and all the priests looked at him, and there, on his forehead, he *was* leprous; so they thrust him out of that place. Indeed he also hurried to get out, because the LORD had struck him. <sup>21</sup> King Uzziah was a leper until the day of his death. He dwelt in an isolated house, because he was a leper; for he was cut off from the house of the LORD. Then Jotham his son *was* over the king’s house, judging the people of the land. <sup>22</sup> Now the rest of the acts of Uzziah, from first to last, the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz wrote. <sup>23</sup> So Uzziah rested with his fathers, and they buried him with his fathers in the field of burial.”

- **Isaiah 6:1-5** “In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His *robe* filled the temple. <sup>2</sup> Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. <sup>3</sup> And one cried to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy *is* the LORD of hosts; the whole earth *is* full of His glory!” <sup>4</sup> And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke. <sup>5</sup> So I said: “Woe *is* me, for I am undone! Because I *am* a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, The LORD of hosts.”

*What was the response Isaiah gave after seeing the Lord?*

- “Woe *is* me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips...”
  - *There was a personal acknowledgment of his own sin.*
- As righteous as Daniel was, he took personal responsibility for his nation.
  - **Daniel 9:2-5** “<sup>2</sup> I, Daniel, understood by the books the number of the years *specified* by the word of the LORD through Jeremiah the prophet, that He would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup> Then I set my face toward the Lord God to make request by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes. <sup>4</sup> And I prayed to the LORD my God, and made confession, and said, “O Lord, great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and mercy with those who love Him, and with those who keep His commandments, <sup>5</sup> we have sinned and committed iniquity, we have done wickedly and rebelled, even by departing from Your precepts and Your judgments.”
- As righteous as Jeremiah was, he took personal responsibility for his nation.
  - **Jeremiah 14:7** “O LORD, though our iniquities testify against us, do it for Your name’s sake; for our backslidings are many, we have sinned against You.”
- As righteous as Nehemiah was, he took personal responsibility for his nation.
  - **Nehemiah 9:33** “...we have done wickedly.”
- As righteous as the Psalmist was, he took personal responsibility for his nation.
  - **Psalms 106:6** “We have sinned with our fathers, We have committed iniquity, We have done wickedly.”
    - Why had they done wickedly?
      - They forgot His deeds.

*Leonard Ravenhill, in his book “Why Revival Tarries” writes.*

*“There are three persons living in each of us: the one we think we are, the one other people think we are, and the one God knows we are.”*

*The ONLY hope for America is IF the church repents!*

- *WE must repent!*
- *You want to see revival?*

*Websters 1828 dictionary defines revival as.*

1. *Renewed and more active attention to religion, an awakening of men to their spiritual concerns.*

*Revival starts with Repentance.*

*Listen as I read what Jesus told the churches in the Book of Revelation.*

*To the church at Ephesus*

- **Revelation 2:5** "... **repent** and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you **repent**."

*To the church in Pergamos*

- **Revelation 2:15-16** "<sup>15</sup> Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. <sup>16</sup> **Repent**, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth."

*To the church at Thyatira*

- **Revelation 2:20-23** "<sup>20</sup> ...I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. <sup>21</sup> And I gave her time to **repent** of her sexual immorality, and she did not **repent**. <sup>22</sup> Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they **repent** of their deeds. <sup>23</sup> I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works."

*To the church at Sardis*

- **Revelation 3:3** "**Remember** therefore how you have received and heard; **hold fast** and **repent**. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you."

*To the church of Laodicea*

- **Revelation 3:19-20** "<sup>19</sup> As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be **zealous** and **repent**. <sup>20</sup> Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me."

**Revelation 3:22** "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

- *Do you hear Him?*

*“We have been preserved, these many years, in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth, and power, as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving Grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us!”*

- Abraham Lincoln

*“It is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly to implore his protection and favors.”* - George Washington

*The ONLY hope for America will come from God’s people turning back to Him!*

**2 Chronicles 7:14** <sup>“14</sup> ... if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”

- Let’s repent so He will hear!
- Let’s repent to be forgiven!
- Let’s repent so He will heal our land!